



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

May 5, 2005

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA

First District

YVONNE B. BURKE

Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Third District

DON KNABE

Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

Fifth District

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David Sanders, Ph.D. *DS*
Director

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2004, BOARD AGENDA 12 RE: 90-DAY PROGRESS REPORT
RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR
INTEREST/INFORMATION (RFI), 2nd 90-DAY REPORT**

On September, 2004, your Board instructed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to issue a letter of interest to available community providers who expressed interest in providing a structured residential educational setting designed for youth characterized by histories of multiple moves and stays in group home settings for treatment, include the definition of a residential academy, the target population served and the outcomes for the target population and report back to your Board within 90 days. On December 28, 2004, I reported to your Board that 27, eventually 28, responses from community agencies/foundations describing various residential academy models were submitted to the DCFS for consideration. I also informed your Board that I would convene a taskforce comprising of representation from your Board offices, Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE), County Counsel, CAO and DCFS education program managers to assess the submissions.

At the March 17, 2005, Children's Services Board Deputies Meeting, discussions reinforced the need for residential academy settings to fill an estimated residential academy need for as many as 2,000 DCFS youths who fit the youth profile described in the RFI. Discussed as well, was the San Diego County San Pasqual Academy model its origin, funding streams and adaptability to an Los Angeles County model. Some features such as the private/public efforts that led to donated land/facilities, education and child welfare funding collaboration and ongoing foundation support are worth

observing as San Pasqual Academy enters its third year of operation. Our discussion of the 28 submissions from community providers concluded with three findings and a recommendation.

Findings:

- 1) The 28 submissions could be grouped into four categories of residential academy models, including:
 - A) Community-based home with public/non-public education component
 - B) Residential Setting with On-grounds school
 - C) Residential Setting with public or non-public school component
 - D) Charter School with residential setting component
- 2) Each residential academy model whether its origin was educational or residential in nature exhibited both advantages and concerns related to funding, variety of educational curriculums for students, and available child welfare treatment services for youth residents.
- 3) Focusing on one or more residential academy model to the exclusion of others would be premature, that additional research and analysis is required.

Recommendation: Submissions from the 28 residential academy providers be forwarded and referred to the Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Counsel (ECC) for additional research and analysis.

On behalf of your Board Offices, I will forward this matter for ECC consideration and continue to assess the viability of the residential academy model to attain the permanency, well-being and education goals for County foster youth. I will also coordinate with the ECC to provide your Board the next 90-day joint progress report.

DS:wc

Attachments: December 28, 2004 Report to the Board
Residential Academy Providers – RFI Responses Summary

c: LACOE
L.A. County Education Coordinating Counsel



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.
Director

December 28, 2004

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Chair Pro Tem
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

From: David Sanders, Ph.D. 
Director

**90 DAY REPORT ON RESPONSES TO THE RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS
REQUEST FOR INTEREST/INFORMATION (RFI) FOR SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
MOTION.**

As you know, DCFS issued a Residential Academy Providers RFI in early December 2004 to ascertain the level of interest by individuals or organizations to provide Residential Academy settings for Los Angeles County Foster Youth. Of the twenty-seven (27) responses received, twenty-four (24) were from group homes, one (1) from a foster family agency, one (1) from a job readiness consortium and one (1) from a foundation that studies private-public partnerships in the education field.

These 27 responses span a wide range of residential academy models including many variations of residential care settings utilizing public and charter schools as well as a few proposals for 'from the ground up' projects. To assess the viability of these residential academy models, I will convene a taskforce, not limited to but including representation from each Board of Supervisors' Office, the CAO, Auditor Controller, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and DCFS managers from the Group Homes/FFA and Education Initiative Programs. We will report back to you within 90 days on our progress.

For any questions, please call me at (213) 351-5600 or your staff may call Helen Berberian, Board Liaison, at (213) 351-5530.

DS:WC
Attachments

c: Board Executive Office
Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Residential Academy Providers RFI
List of Residential Academy Providers RFI Respondents

Residential Academy Providers

Request for Interest/Information (RFI)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is conducting a Request for Interest/Information to determine the interest and availability of individuals or organizations to provide a Residential Academy for foster youth under the jurisdiction of DCFS. Additionally, the DCFS is open to residential and academic organizations working in a collaborative effort to provide this service.

DCFS is a public agency charged with the responsibility of ensuring child safety that sometimes necessitates an out-of-home-care child placement. Though family reunification is always a primary objective, this is not always an alternative that can ensure child safety and well-being. DCFS is seeking program models for alternative residential placement of high school age youth in out-of-home-care placements for whom permanent placement in a family setting is unavailable, focused on academic and education goals leading to successful emancipation to adulthood. DCFS Children's Social Workers (CSWs) would refer to these Residential Academy Provider(s) high school age foster youth whose placement characteristics and academic achievements indicate they would benefit in a more challenging setting provided through that Residential Academy program.

Any individuals or organizations who do not have the background described above, but who nevertheless believe that they are capable of fulfilling one or more of the outcomes listed below may submit a letter of interest; however, they must also explain and document why they believe they have the background and experience to that set forth above. Submission of supporting documentation is encouraged and it may be attached to your letter of interest. Recipients of this RFI are also urged to share it with any and all other individuals or organizations whom you believe may be interested in providing a response.

The placement characteristics of the foster youth to participate in this program may include but are not limited to:

- Youth who have been in out of home care for at least 24 months and have experienced four (4) or more placements.
- Youth who are not placed with relatives.
- Youth who are 14 years of age and older.
- Youth with a long term foster care order from dependency court.
- Youth who are not freed for adoption.

The outcomes for youths from a Residential Academy should include but are not limited to:

- A stable and permanent home until emancipation to adulthood.
- High School graduation.
- Equip all emancipating youths for one or more of the following:
 - Entrance to a Community College, public or private College/University.
 - Vocation skills program leading to job placement.
 - Full-time employment.
- Establishment of a relationship with a mentor and/or a lifelong connection to a committed, caring adult.
- Completion of Independent Living Skills (ILP) program. (Please refer to the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act)

Interested parties should provide DCFS with a letter of Interest/Information of no more than 10 pages describing the following:

- How your program or proposed program will meet each of the desired outcomes listed above, including collaborations.
- Proposed facility type, location and student capacity for a residential academy.
- Proposed funding and funding source for your program model and facility other than Aid to Family with Dependent Children-Foster Care.
- Experience in the development and/or operation of an academic and/or residential facility.
- Experience in working with foster youth providing residential placement, treatment services, mentorship program services, employment skill training services and/or ILP services; include academic accreditations, residential licensure/rate qualifications and teaching/staffing/administrative management expertise.
- Other pertinent information describing your Residential Academy program model.

This RFI is issued solely to gather information and assist the DCFS in its internal evaluation and planning efforts. While the DCFS may choose to procure the services of a Residential Academy Provider, nothing in this RFI shall be construed as in any way obligating the County of Los Angeles to issue a formal advertisement, negotiate a contract, hire additional employees or in any way obtain the services of a Residential

Academy Provider. All information received in response to this RFI shall become the exclusive property of the County of Los Angeles. Respondents are cautioned that all documents received in response to this RFI become a matter of public record and shall be disclosed to the extent required by law, including but not limited to, the California Public Records Act (California Government Code Section 6250, et seq.). Respondents are advised to clearly, unambiguously and specifically identify all aspects of their response to the RFI, which are secret, confidential or proprietary. At a minimum, this shall include labeling the confidential material with the appropriate label: "trade secret," "confidential," "proprietary," etc. The County shall not in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such records or portion thereof, including, without limitation, those so marked, if the disclosure is required by law, or by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Nor shall the County in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or portion thereof, which has not been clearly, unambiguously and specifically identified in the aforementioned manner.

Respondents who provide a timely response to this RFI and who provide an address at which they may be reached, will be placed on a list of interested individuals or organizations. Should the DCFS choose to issue a formal advertisement for Residential Academy Providers within the calendar year 2005, those on the list of interested individuals or organizations shall be notified of the intent to issue the formal advertisement and where they may look to obtain additional information.

Letters of interest, not to exceed 10 pages may be submitted to: County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services, Contracts Administration, Room 400, 425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90020, Attention: Walter Chan, on or before 12:00 p.m., Monday, December 20, 2004. You may also contact Ron Rios, Assistant Manager at (213) 351-5676 or Esther Pulido, Contract Analyst at (213) 351-5708

RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS RFI RESPONDENTS, 12/28/2004

1. 7Beginnings Learning Center/Care Home
2. Children's Homes of Southern California
3. Crystal Wings, Inc.
4. Door of Hope Community Youth Center
5. Eddie Rochester Anderson Foundation "The"
6. Enrichment Consortium
7. Excel Family Intervention Programs
8. Glenway Corporation
9. Hart Community Homes, Inc.
10. Hill Family Care Academic & Residential Center
11. Landmark Foundation, Inc.
12. Los Angeles Appleseed Foundation
13. Los Angeles Youth Network
14. Murrell's Community Service Agency
15. New Outlook Boys Home
16. Olive Crest
17. Penny Lane Centers
18. Principals of Youth and Family Welfare Organization
19. Promise Group "The"
20. Ruffin Consultation Group
21. Secure Transitions, Inc.
22. Seed Foundation, Inc., "The"
23. Street Academy
24. Sycamores "The"
25. United Care, Inc.
26. Vista Del Mar Child & Family Services
27. Young Ministries, Inc., "The"

December 2004

RESIDENTIAL ACADEMY PROVIDERS - REQUEST FOR INTEREST/INFORMATION (RFI) - RESPONSES SUMMARY

Residential Academy Providers	Board District	Organization Type	Models (See legend)	How Program Meets Desired Outcomes (See legend)	Proposed Facility Type (Capacity & Location)	Proposed Funding (Excluding AFDC-FC)	Experience Developing or Operating an Academic or Residential Facility	Experience Working With Foster Youth and Providing Residential Placement and Services	Comments
1. Beginnings Learning Center	2	Group Home	A	1,2,4,5,6,7	6-bed homes	Personal investments; fundraising; grants/loans	3 years	15 years	Proposes to work with school district
2. Children's Homes of Southern California	3	Group Home	A	1,2,4,6	Up to 30 beds	Grants; endowments; donations;	73 years	73 years	Serves severely emotionally disturbed and conduct disorder
3. Crystal Wings, Inc.	N/A	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,6,7	6-bed homes	Not addressed	1 1/2 years	Not addressed	Girls only; proposes to work with school district
4. Door of Hope Community Center	1	Community Center	C	1,2,4,5,6,7	12-bed facility*	Co. of L.A. Community and Senior Services	9 years	Not addressed	Proposes to work with school district and charter schools
5. Eddie "Rochester" Anderson Foundation	2	Group Home	A	1,4,6,7	6-bed homes	Not addressed	Years not provided	Not addressed	Serves mentally disabled
6. Enrichment Consortium	4	Job readiness Consortium	N/A	Not addressed	None proposed	Not addressed	None	Not addressed	Offers trainings and programs for youth in the Pomona area
7. Excel Family Intervention Programs	2	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,6,7	4 bedroom unit*	Grants and donations	14 years	6 years	Proposes to work with school district
8. Glenway Corporation	N/A	Group Home	A	1,2,4,5,6,7	10-bed home	Grants	1 1/2 years	1 1/2 years	Proposes to work with school districts
9. Hart Community Homes, Inc.	N/A	Group Home	A	1,2,3,6	6-bed homes	Grants and fundraising	8 years	8 years	Boys only; Location of facility in Orange Co.; proposes to work with School District
10. Hill Family Care	2	Group Home	A	1,3,4,5,6,7	6-bed home	Existing funds and fundraisers	19 years	19 years	Boys only; proposes to work with school district
11. Landmark Foundation, Inc.	2	Group Home	A	1,6	Group home*	Not addressed	None	3 years	Serves severely emotionally and developmentally disabled; proposes to work with school district; capacity not mentioned
12. Los Angeles Youth Network	3	Shelter	C	1,2,6,7	12-bed facility	Fundraising; grants	18 years (Shelter Care)	19 years	Willing to partner with County or other agency
13. Los Angeles Applesseed	3	Foundation	D	1,2,3,5,6	300-bed facility*	Grants; Academy bond; loans	Unclear	None	Proposes to work with LAOCE
14. Murrell's Community Service Agency	5	Group Home	A	1,4,5	Multiple 5-bed cottages*	WIA funds and grants;	20 years	20 years	No location given; proposes to work with school district; addresses high school certificate vs. diploma
15. New Outlook Boys Home	2	Group Home	A	None	6-bed home	Not addressed	14 years	14 years	Proposes to work with school district
16. Olive Crest	N/A	Group Home	B	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	4 homes with one child per bedroom	Charter School funding;	31 years	31 years	On-grounds charter school to be accredited by Dept. of Education in 2005; offers evening college classes at Community College
17. Penny Lane Centers	3	Group Home	B	1,2,4,5,6,7	50-bed facility (school capacity is 86)	Not addressed	35 years	35 years	Proposes to work with school district; on-grounds school certified by LAUSD

18. Principals of Youth and Family Welfare Organization	2	Group Home	C	1,2,4,7	15-20-bed facility*	Contributions, donations, loans	1 year	"Extensive"	No mention if they will work with charter school or school district
19. Project Six	3	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	6-bed homes	Various government programs and State Dept. of Rehab.	23 years	23 years	Work with parent (HELP Group) agency for academic services which is certified by Dept. of Education
20. The Promise Group	4	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,5,7	25-bed facility*	Secured funding commitments from various public and private sources	Years not provided	Number of years not given	Proposes to work with school district
21. Ruffin Consultation Group	2	Group Home	A	1,2,4,6,7	6-bed homes or 12-18-bed facility*	Not addressed	4 years	4 years	Proposes to work with charter school; location to be determined
22. Secure Transitions, Inc.	2	FFA	A	1,4,6,7	15-bed multiple family dwelling*	Not addressed	8 years	8 years	Propose to address remedial academic needs; work with emotionally disturbed and youth with learning disorders
23. The SEED Foundation	N/A	Foundation	D	1,2,3,4,6	8-10-bed 'houses'*	Fundraising	7 years	None	Proposes to work with LACOE
24. Street Academy	2	Group Home	A	1,2,4	'Residential Building'*	Not addressed	Years not provided	Not addressed	Proposes to work with charter school
25. The Sycamores	5	Group Home	B	1,2,3,4,5,6	47-bed facility	Private foundation money and fundraising	102 years	102 years	Boys only on-grounds non-public school
26. United Care, Inc.	2	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	6-bed homes	Fundraising and donations	15 years	15 years	Girls only; work with school district
27. Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services	2	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	75-bed facility	Grants; contributions	77 years	77 years	On-grounds school which is accredited
28. Young Ministries, Inc.	N/A	Group Home	A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7	8-bed home	Existing funds; private investors	7 years	22 years	Proposes to work with school district

Desired Outcomes:

- 1 - Provide Stable Home
- 2 - High School graduation as goal
- 3 - Assistance with entrance to Community College or 4-year college
- 4 - Offer Vocational Skills
- 5 - Assistance with obtaining full time employment
- 6 - Offer independent living program
- 7 - Establishment of mentor or lifelong connection

Models:

- A - Community Based Home with Public or Non-Public Education
- B - Residential with On-Grounds School
- C - Residential with Public or Non-Public Education
- D - Charter School with Residential Component

* Facility has not yet been constructed/acquired